

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LYON 00008 141013Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /084 W
-----141024Z 040154 /17

R 140650Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL LYON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0980
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS LYON 0008

E.O. 11652 :N/A
TAGS : PINT, FR
SUBJECT : MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS HEATING UP IN LYON
METROPOLITAN AREA.

SUMMARY : SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR POLITICAL
MANEUVERING IN PREPARATION FOR THE MARCH MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS HAS BEEN GAINING IN INTENSITY AND TONE IN BOTH
THE LYON AND VILLEURBANNE CITIES, TOGETHER CONSTITUING
THE GREATER PART OF THE LYON METROPOLITAN AREA. IN LYON
THE SOUSTELLE CANDIDACY UPSET THE COHESIVENESS OF THE
P.R.A.D.E.L. MAJORITY AND IN VILLEURBANNE THE PARTNERS
OF THE LEFT ARE IN TURMOIL OVER THE CONSTITUTION
AND HEADING-UP OF THEIR COMMON LIST OF CANDIDATES. END SUMMARY

IN LYON, THE NOT UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT LAST WEEK THAT
DEPUTE AND FORMER MINISTER JACQUES SOUSTELLE, (SEE LYON
263 OF 11/18/76 FOR BIO DATA), WOULD BE CANDIDATE FOR
MAYOR AND HEAD BALLOTS IN NINE WARDS IN OPPOSITION TO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LYON 00008 141013Z

SENATOR/MAYOR FRANCISQUE COLLOMB, ENDED A PERIOD OF
GROWING RUMORS TO THAT EFFECT. IN MAKING HIS ANNOUNCEMENT,
SOUSTELLE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WOULD WAGE A PARTICULARLY STRONG
FIGHT IN THOSE WARDS WHICH THE MAJORITY HAS TENDED TO GIVE UP
FOR LOST IN ADVANCE. HE WAS REFERRING ESPECIALLY TO THE 8TH
AND 9TH TAKEN OVER BY THE SOCIALISTS IN LAST YEAR S
CANTONAL ELECTOIONS. SOUSTELLE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE

WOULD BE READY TO WORK WITH A MIXED MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IN WHICH THE OPPOSITION WOULD BE WELL REPRESENTED. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE SURVIVAL PRADELISM, A QUASI APOLITICAL CITY MANAGEMENT APPROACH, WITHOUT ITS FOUNDER LOUIS PRADEL AT THE HELM. AT THE TIME OF HIS ANNOUNCEMENT SOUSTELLE ALSO TOOK PAINS TO UNDERSCORE THAT HE HAD ALWAYS BE A CENTRIST, LEFT OF CENTER, AND THAT HIS LISTS OF CANDIDATES COULD IN NO CASE BE LABELED AS RIGHTIST. HE CLARIFIED THAT HIS LISTS WOULD CONTAIN CANDIDATES WITH POSITIONS AS VARIED AS POSSIBLE, GOING FROM RPR AND R.I. TO SOCIALISTS OUTSIDE THE UNION OF THE LEFT, AND ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD INCLUDE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN.

THE NEW MAYOR OF LYON, SENATOR COLLOMB REACTED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY TO SOUSTELLE'S ANNOUNCEMENT BY PUBLICLY DEPLORING THE LATTER'S ACTION AS DEVISIVE AND HARMFUL TO THE COHESION AND SOLIDARITY SO CAREFULLY DEVELOPED AMONG LYON'S MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS BY HIS PREDECESSOR, COLLOMB WENT ON TO QUESTION SOUSTELLE'S REAL MOTIVES, POINTING OUT THAT THE DEPUTE HAD ALREADY BEEN DEFEATED FOR MAYOR OF LYON AS FAR BACK AS 1957 AND AGAIN ONLY A MONTH AGO : HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM A CITY ADMINISTRATION TO WHICH (AS COUNCILLOR) HE HAS BELONGED FOR TWENTY YEARS. WHAT CAN HE POSSIBLY CRITICIZE ?

TWO WEEKS EARLIER, MAITRE ANDRE SOULIER, A LEADING SOCIALIST WHOSE NAME HAS BEEN MENTIONED FREQUENTLY AS A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR, CHARGED THAT THE SOCIALIST UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LYON 00008 141013Z

PARTY HAD LIGHTLY WRITTEN OFF ITS POSSIBILITIES IN LYON. SOULIER SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED THE UNION OF THE LEFT'S TACTICS IN PRESENTING JOINT LISTS OF THE COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST AND LEFT RADICAL PARTIES NOT ONLY A STRATEGIC,

BUT AN HISTORICAL ERROR. HE RECALLED IS NOT ONLY A STRATEGIC,

BUT AN HISTORICAL ERROR. HE RECALLED THAT LYON AS FORMER MAYORS WERE AUGAGNEUR, SOCIALIST, HERRIOT AND PRADEL, BOTH RADICAL SOCIALISTS.

IN VILLEURBANNE, SECOND LARGEST MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE LYON METROPOLITAN AREA (POPULATION : 120,000), THE SOCIALISTS HAVE ON THEIR OWN KICKED OFF AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BASED ON THEIR UNILATERAL CONCEPT OF A COMMON LIST OF COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST CANDIDATES, HEADED BY CHARLES HERNU, FORMER DEPUTE AND SINCE SOME TIME P.S. PREFERRED CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED ETIENNE GAGNAIRE, THE CURRENT MAYOR. THE COMMUNISTS DISAGREE STRONGLY THAT THE

COMMON LIST BE HEADED BY A SOCIALIST. THEY BASE THEIR
POSITION ON THE RESULT OF THE 1973 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
WHEN THEY OBTAINED 57 O/O OF THE VOTES CAST FOR THE LEFT AS WELL
AS ON THE CANTONAL ELECTIONS OF 1976 WHEN THEY BETTERED THEIR

SCORE TO 62 O/O OF THE LEFTIST VOTE. TO THIS MITTERAND
REPLIED IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST ON RADIO EUROPE 1, THAT
THE PRESENT SOCIALIST PARTY EXCLUDED A NUMBER OF POLITICAL
PERSONALITIES ELECTED BEFORE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN JUNE
1971, THOSE THAT WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE STRATEGY
OF A COMMON PROGRAM OF THE LEFT. THE VOTES THESE PEOPLE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LYON 00008 141013Z

OBTAINED WERE SOCIALIST VOTES AND THEREFORE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN ESTABLISHING THE
PERCENTAGES ON WHICH THE PRESENT LISTS ARE BASED, HE ARGUED.
AS OF THIS REPORT THE DEBATE IS STILL QUITE HEATED AND NO
SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE IN SIGHT. COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY
MARCHAIS IS EXPECTED TO VISIT VILLEURBANNE
JANUARY 20 AND IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING TO OBSERVE FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS POTENTIALLY DEVISIVE POLITICAL
CONFLICT.
VERSCHUUR

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LYON00008
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770014-0680
Format: TEL
From: LYON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770151/aaaabsts.tel
Line Count: 149
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e4471d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3598041
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS HEATING UP IN LYON METROPOLITAN AREA. SUMMARY : SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR POLITICAL
TAGS: PINT, FR, (SOUSTELLE, JACQUES), (COLLOMB, FRANCISQUE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e4471d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009